

Basis for Amendment

The applicants have amended the preamble to Claim 1 consistent with the suggestion of the Examiner, wherein the term "obtainable" is replaced by the term "obtained." This amendment limits the wafers that are covered by the claims to those "obtained" utilizing the process set forth in Claim 1 et. seq.

Basis for this amendment is contained on page 7, line 24 through page 8, line 9 of the application, as filed. No new subject matter is introduced by this amendment.

Discussion

The USPTO finally rejected Claims 1, 2, 4 - 14, 17 - 21 and 23 - 24, while merely objecting to Claims 3, 15, 16 and 22. The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims.

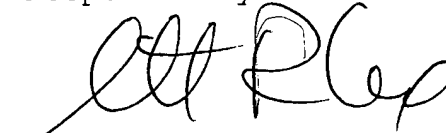
The USPTO continued its rejection of most of the claims of the application based on Japanese application 06 039 235 (hereinafter JP '235). However, in rejecting those claims, the Examiner specifically noted that the arguments previously made by the applicants were based on an assertion that "these wafers are obtained by..." a particular process whereas the language of the claims describes the wafers as merely being "obtainable by" that process. To overcome this rejection, the applicants have amended Claim 1 to remove the term "obtainable" and substitute therefore "obtained." The applicants assert that by this amendment, each claim of the application is limited to wafers which are specifically produced by the process set forth in the claims of the application. The applicants believe that this amendment places all claims in condition for allowance.

The applicants also assert that process claim 23 is independently allowable over JP '235 as it is already limited to a process similar to that claimed in newly amended Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

The applicants assert that all claims have been placed in condition for allowance and request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment or if there are any additional minor amendments that are necessary to the claims to put them in condition for allowance, please contact applicants' counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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